

and as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from FY2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing D.C.'s Medicaid reimbursement payments to \$57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years a Federal error denied the city part of its Federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments become necessary. The District Medicaid agency won Federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the Federal Government's child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance, recovering \$15 million in fraudulently billed funds. The city's novel D.C. Health Care Alliance, for which Federal approval is pending, would allow coverage of residents and provide more early and preventative care, avoiding huge Medicaid costs when health conditions become severe and Medicaid becomes the only option.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase that will help my city's most needy residents.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act, H.R. 1904.

The New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act would assist the State of New Mexico with the development of comprehensive State water plans that will help the State more effectively manage our most precious natural resource—water.

I introduced the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act on April 17, 2007, and Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN introduced companion legislation in the Senate on January 10, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to: provide to New Mexico technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans; conduct water resources mapping in New Mexico; and conduct comprehensive studies of groundwater resources in New Mexico to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

The legislation also directs the Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, to allocate: \$5 million to develop hydrologic models of eight New Mexico river systems; \$2.5 million to complete the hydrologic models for the San Juan River and other Southwest New

Mexico river systems; and \$4.5 million for statewide digital orthophotography mapping. The Federal cost share shall be on a 50-50 match basis, and all Federal funds are to be non-reimbursable.

Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico was the home to many indigenous southwestern peoples from A.D. 850 to 1250. Unfortunately, the Chacoans ingenuity in storing and channeling water was not enough to save them from a 50-year drought that began in 1130. The Chacoan pueblo people left Chaco Canyon in stages and established a string of pueblos along the Rio Grande and a few other desert rivers.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and State conservancy and irrigation districts flood control and reclamation projects along New Mexico's river systems that store water during wet years for use during dry years help ensure that New Mexico's current population will not have to relocate during extended periods of drought—like the Chacoans were forced to do more than eight centuries ago.

However, like much of the West, the demands on New Mexico's ground and fresh water resources are immense and growing. For example, the First Congressional District of New Mexico is bisected by the Rio Grande. The flows of the Middle Rio Grande serve the biggest city in New Mexico, Albuquerque, many smaller cities, six Indian pueblos, and a network of agriculture users. Many of these farmers irrigate the same land as their Spanish ancestors did over 4 centuries ago. In addition there is the endangered silvery minnow, which, under a 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion, requires 180 miles of continuous minimum river flow in the Middle Rio Grande.

New Mexico has an average allotment of 393,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande water under the 1938 interstate compact that apportions the Rio Grande between Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. These demands have stretched this allotment to the limit. Further complicating the picture is the fact that Article VII of the Rio Grande Compact severely restricts New Mexico's ability to store native water upstream at Heron, Abiquiu, El Vado, or Cochiti Reservoir.

Thus far, New Mexico's water managers have been able to stretch New Mexico limited water supplies to meet the expanding demands of New Mexico cities, industries, Indian pueblos, and endangered species, without widespread displacement of its historical agriculture users. By providing Federal water planning assistance to New Mexico's water managers this important legislation will help stretch New Mexico's limited water resources; and, as a result, will help prevent waters conflict in New Mexico well into the future.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1904.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MILLER. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratu-

lations to the Rufus Hayes family for being selected the 2007 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family. Since 1969, the Hayes family has been actively involved in farming in Northwest Florida.

Both Rufus and his wife Sandy have been involved with Santa Rosa County in my district for over several decades. Rufus started the family ranch in 1969 with just a barn and a few horses, and Sandy worked with the county school system in addition to keeping the books for the family ranch. Cutting horses was Rufus's specialty, and over the years many more services were added that helped others in the community. Not only were there riding lessons, boarding services, and tack sales, the Hayes Ranch also had cattle and even buffalo for horse training.

Of their four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild, many also participate in the operation of and activity on the ranch. Their son Phil raises bucking bulls, produces bull riding events, and breaks horses just like his father did when he first started the ranch. The ranch also has week-long riding camps offered by Phil's wife Becky, and their daughter Jill helps with these camps as well as taking care of the horses boarded there. The rest of the family are regular visitors to the ranch, helping Rufus and Sandy with day-to-day operations as well as enjoying the recreation on the Hayes Ranch such as family picnics and fishing in the many ponds.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that is a role model for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Rufus Hayes family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many more generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GOYO AND CONSUELO LOPEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Goyo and Consuelo Lopez. This is a monumental event.

Mr. and Mrs. Lopez met as students playing in the Longhorn Band at University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Lopez had a successful career working for the weekly newspaper, "The South Texas Citizen." Mrs. Lopez began work as a music teacher in 1966 due to her love of music, and is now currently retired from teaching after a 41-year career. They have five children: Armando, Steven, Michael, Goyo, and Cynthia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication and great love that Goyo and Consuelo have shown for each other in their 50 years of marriage. I ask you to join me in honoring them on the celebration of their wedding anniversary and wish them health and happiness for years to come.